

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

EXHIBIT NO. 27DATE Jan. 25, 09BILL NO. SB ~~100~~ 102**WOLFE WATER MANAGEMENT, INC.**

Montana state-certified water and wastewater operation

Lee Wolfe, President

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DATE: 01/26/2009

RE: Senate Bill 102

To Senate Natural Resources Committee Members,

Introduction

My name is Lee Wolfe. I am a Montana state certified water wastewater operator with thirty years of experience in the water quality field. I worked as director of public works for the towns of Saco Montana, and Stanford Montana before becoming a technical assistant for Montana Rural Water Systems. For Montana Rural Water I traveled the state providing technical assistance to water systems of all different sizes. I am currently president of Wolfe Water Management Inc. ("WWM"). WWM is involved in the contract operation and maintenance of twenty five public wastewater and water systems in the Helena area. I have experience in all aspects of system operation and expenses. WWM represent our clients at the state and county level.

Comment

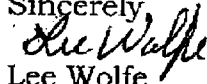
I believe it is important to encourage that senate bill 102 be passed to clarify the definition of the term **significant deficiency** ("SD"). When the federally passed ground water rule recently went into affect, SD became the tipping point for a huge increase in the EPA requirements imposed on public ground water systems. Unfortunately, SD is a subjective term interpreted by individuals involved in the sanitary surveys. These surveys are conducted by DEQ, Counties and private contractor personnel.

Because of SD implications and its subjectivity, DEQ has proposed a screening committee to determine if a SD designation on a sanitary survey is truly significant. This would insure no **insignificant deficiency** throw a public system into unwarranted extra testing and expense. The operators, Home Owners Associations, Water Users Associations, Cities, Towns, and Water Districts of Montana need that clarification.

OVER →

Senate Bill 102 would give DEQ the power to determine the SD designation by giving the required primacy over that part of the ground water rule. Without DEQ primacy in implementation of the ground water rule we defer to the EPA to make no determination beyond that of the sanitary surveyor. Please consider correcting this omission of DEQ primacy over this aspect of the ground water rule by voting for Senate Bill 102. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lee Wolfe

Wolfe Water Management Inc.